

Blizard Research Committee (BRC)

Monday 12 February 2024, 2.00 pm, Large Cloud and MS Teams

MINUTES

Present:

Prof William Alazawi (WA)	Prof Mary Collins (MC)
Rachael Parker (RP)	Prof Denise Sheer (DS)
Prof Cleo Bishop (CB)	Prof Neil McCarthy (NM)
Vardhman Rakyan (VR)	Prof Silvia Marino (SM)
Carlos De Oliveira (CDO)	Molly Ramalhos (MR)
Nawaz Ahmed (NA)	

Part 1: Preliminary items

1. Apologies for absence

Xavier Griffin, Kenny Linton, Jurgen Groet

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- Email has been circulated for everyone to register for Lab Archives.
- RP circulated quotes for managed tablets and is awaiting response. Marino lab purchased eight tablets for group use and have found feedback to be needs-based. SM advises asking who needs tablets and who does not rather than bulk purchase.
- VR informed committee of intention to include Postdocs and PGRs in research committee discussions (BEC and BRC).
- MC informed committee FMD have secured 15 professorial recruitments, funds from QMUL and Barts Chairty. Advert will be circulated over the next few months to gather interest in areas with fewer people. Encourage people to apply, circulate within centre meetings. WA emphasised collegiate recruitment and reference to feedback from EAB. MC confirmed these are likely to be established professors or emerging talent with funding and papers for REF.
- DS informed committee that WHRI and BCI pay around £25,000 for around 400 licenses – around £85 per person, per annum. Individual licenses cost £31 per month. VR confirmed Biorender approved at last FMD meeting.

3. Matters Arising

N/A

Part 2: Agenda Items

4. PDRA and a PhD student rep for BRC/ BEC

- Postdoc rep is Abigail Coetzee, Head of Postdoc Society. Hamish Miller to attend as PGR rep, Metka Gorkic to take over as rep from April onwards.

5. Equipment Service Contract workflow + Equipment Requirements Form

- Amrita Ahluwalia has asked update of other tabs (price organised) within infrastructure log. CB, CDO and Claire Cox to review and recirculate in case re-rank is required.
- CB querying whether herself, Claire Cox and Matthew Caley can meet with Pauline Levey to discuss usage/ access of processor in core pathology.
- SM noted necessity of up-to-date user stats, to review who uses what equipment. All agreed.

6. Tissue processor replacement

- FMD meeting did not take place, however responses recorded.

Part 3: Standing Items

7. PGR Report

- Cleo Bishop's PhD proposal approved. Jana Fahd A Gama
- Update to be given by KL at next meeting

8. Grant Report January 2024

- WA informed committee that number of grants awarded over £1 million continue to increase.
- Continued positive trend by all accounts.
- CDO informed committee he is in discussion with Vicki Byers, Senior EU Partnerships Manager, International R&I Team (JRMO) to organise info session. Initially, cross-faculty regarding all EU funding streams, with subsequent Blizzard session regarding ERC funding.
- Good news inbox still in progress, CDO to check with David Bell. Possible auto forward from Blizzard inbox to FMD inbox to avoid duplication.
- Both MRC Core bids have been submitted (Lifelong Health and Cancer bid).

9. Honorary Staff Appointments

- All approved.
- Committee extend congratulations to Claire Bourke.

10. Recruitments in progress

- Abhi Banerjee will be starting Wednesday 14th February as Professor in Neuroscience, will be doing mouse work in Oxford and human cognitive research at the Blizzard.
- Graham Meintjes will be starting on the 1st March as Professor in Infection.
- Nazma Mallik no longer joining.

11. Fellowships / Major Grant Initiatives

- MC encouraged circulation of Novo Nordisk possibilities, as well as Danish foundation in partnership with a Danish institution.
- CDO informed committee of Paul Vulliamy's UKRI FLF (Future Leaders Fellowship) application.
- Paul Vulliamy awaiting outcome of intermediate fellowship as clinician scientist and Wellcome application.
- Aoife Murray is also interested in submitting UKRI FLF (Future Leaders Fellowship).
- MC informed committee of sponsoring candidate from Fiona Watt's lab for a fellowship in the July round. Has communicated this with David Kelsell and Inderjeet Dokal as he will be suitable for either of their centres.
- MC has met with neurologist at Whipp's Cross hospital, possibly as a CARP (Clinical Research Academic Partnership).
- Matthew Caley's postdoc, Eleri Jones, is submitting a grant application with him.
- Xavier Griffin is working on an NIHR research professorship.
- VR informed committee that those currently in senior lecturer positions can come in with good papers and grants, ready to move on to a leadership profession. WA advised this be circulated in centre meetings.

Part 4: Other business

12. Any other business

- MC informed committee of the groups moving into the Blizzard from WHRI (Dr Suzanne Eldridge and Professor Francesco Dell'Accio), however salaries and grants will stay at WHRI temporarily.

Date of the next meeting: 11 March 2024

Outstanding action list

Meeting date	Action	Person Responsible	Deadline	Outcome
12/02/2024	RP will chase feedback on circulated quotes of managed tablets with aim to purchase some for labs and review usage/ suitability	RP		Completed
12/02/2024	NM to continue discussions with EMULATE, colleagues at SEMS and CREATE Labs to get costings	NM		Ongoing
12/02/2024	Identify PGR rep and invite both postdoc and PGR rep to next BRC meeting	MR		Completed
12/02/2024	Research leads to think about strategic appointments in areas that can consolidate rather than broaden and feed back to WA	All		Ongoing
12/02/2024	Claire Cox and RP to discuss equipment workflow	RP		Ongoing
12/02/2024	CDO to setup Blizzard Good News inbox with David Bell	CDO		Ongoing